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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/074,255	02/14/2002	Akira Yamazaki	107348-00209	5067

7590 10/09/2003

ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC
Suite 400
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-5339

EXAMINER	
MCAULTY, TIMOTHY P	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3682	

DATE MAILED: 10/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SW

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/074,255	YAMAZAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Timothy P McAnulty	3682	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3)<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4)<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____. 5)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6)<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.
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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 3,5, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is unclear as to what the abbreviation "ABS" as recited in line 3 of claim 3,5, and 7 refers. Use of abbreviations in the claims should be avoided.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bingle et al. in view of Becker et al.

Bingle et al. discloses in figures 2-3, in lines 33-35 of column 3, and in lines 1-20 of column 7, a handle made from an inherently translucent polycarbonate having a light source 46 therein. Bingle et al. does not disclose said translucent polycarbonate having a transparent coating thereon nor does it disclose said transparent coating having a metallic gloss. However, Becker et al. in lines 16-36 of column 36 and in lines 21 to 42 of column 64 teaches a transparent coating having a metallic gloss for use on translucent plastics. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the

apparatus of Bingle et al. in view of the teachings of Becker et al. to include translucent coating having a metallic gloss so as to provide a visually appealing coating with improved wear resistance properties.

5. Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aikens in view of Bingle et al.

Aikens discloses in figures 1-3 a plastic operating knob of an air conditioning outlet vent comprising a lamp. Aikens does not disclose said operating knob made from a translucent resin. However, Bingle et al. teaches in figures 2-3 and in lines 33-35 of column 3, a handle made from translucent polycarbonate. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Aikens in view of the teachings of Bingle et al. to make the knob from a translucent polycarbonate to provide a visually appealing knob and thus improve the user interface with adjusting the amount of air flow from said air conditioning outlet vent.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Although the previous reference combinations may not have anticipated or taught the present invention, the reference combination set forth above does.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patent documents are further cited to show the state of the art regarding illuminated handles in general:

US Patent No. 5,580,153 to Motz

US Patent No. 5,297,010 to Camarota et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy P McAnulty whose telephone number is 703.308.8684. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bucci can be reached on 703.308.3668. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703.872.9326 for regular communications and 703.872.9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.308.1113.


DAVID A. BUCCI 10/6/03
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

tpm 
October 3, 2003